

What is claimed is:

1. An image communication apparatus comprising:  
capability obtaining means for making inquiry to  
the other server apparatus so as to obtain capability  
5 information in accordance with the other server when  
inquiry about capability which a destination possesses  
is made to one server apparatus and said one server  
apparatus has no capability information of said  
destination; and

10 capability registering means for registering  
capability information obtained from said other server  
apparatus to said one server apparatus.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said one server apparatus is a local server placed in  
15 the same local area network as that of said image  
communication apparatus, and the other server apparatus  
is a global server placed in a global network to which  
said local area network is connected.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
20 said other server apparatus is one of a plurality of  
capability servers, which spread and manage capability  
of a communication apparatus connectable to Internet on  
Internet.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein  
25 said capability server is a DNS server, which manages  
the capability information of said communication  
apparatus in association with a mail address of said  
communication apparatus.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said capability obtaining means makes inquiry about the capability to said server apparatus at an image data transmitting time so as to obtain capability  
5 information.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a storing section for storing a mail address of a communication apparatus; and

10 first instructing means for instructing said capability obtaining means to obtain capability information of the communication apparatus having the mail address newly stored in said storing section.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, further  
15 comprising:

a storing section for storing a mail address of a communication apparatus; and

second instructing means for periodically instructing said capability obtaining means to obtain  
20 capability information of the communication apparatus having the mail address newly stored in said storing section.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

25 a storing section for storing a mail address of a communication apparatus; and

third instructing section for instructing said capability obtaining means to obtain capability

information of the communication apparatus having the mail address newly stored in said storing section when a content of said storing section is updated.

9. A server apparatus comprising:

5 a capability information storing section for storing at least one of a mail address of a communication apparatus and a telephone number thereof in association with capability;

10 a capability information providing section for providing capability information in accordance with inquiry from said image communication apparatus;

receiving means for receiving capability information of the other communication apparatus from said communication apparatus; and

15 registering means for registering received capability information to said capability information storing section.

10. A server apparatus comprising:

20 a capability information storing section for storing at least one of a mail address of a communication apparatus and a telephone number thereof in association with capability;

25 a capability information providing section for providing capability information in accordance with inquiry from the image communication apparatus described in claim 1;

capability obtaining means for making inquiry to the other server apparatus so as to obtain desired

capability information when there is no capability information subjected to the inquiry in said capability information storing section; and

registering means for registering capability information obtained by said capability obtaining means to said capability information storing section.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said capability obtaining means makes inquiry to another server apparatus to obtain desired capability information when the other server apparatus has no desired capability information stored.

12. A method for registering capability of an image communication apparatus to a server apparatus, comprising the steps of:

making inquiry about capability which a destination possesses to one server apparatus;

obtaining capability information by making inquiry to the other server apparatus when said one server apparatus has no capability information of said destination stored; an

registering said obtained capability information to said one server apparatus.

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